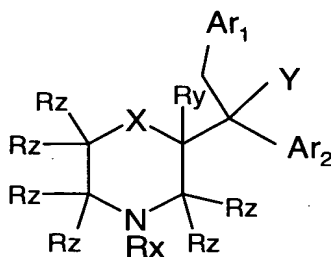


1. (currently amended): A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R_x is H;

Ry is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

each R_z is independently H or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

X represents O;

Y represents OH or OR;

R is C₁-C₄ alkyl;

Ar₁ is a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring, each of which ~~may~~ can be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions,) each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl, O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), S(C₁-C₄ alkyl), halo, hydroxy, pyridyl, thiophenyl, and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, ~~or~~ and O(C₁-C₄ alkyl); and

Ar₂ is a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring, each of which ~~may~~ can be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions,) each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl, O(C₁-C₄ alkyl) and halo;

wherein each above-mentioned C₁-C₄ alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein:

Ar₁ is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, oxadiazolyl or thiadiazolyl, each of which ~~may~~ can be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions,) each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl, O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), S(C₁-C₄ alkyl), halo, hydroxy, pyridyl, thiophenyl, and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents, each independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, or O(C₁-C₄ alkyl); and

Ar₂ is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, or triazolyl, each of which ~~may~~ can be substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions,) each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl, O(C₁-C₄ alkyl) and halo;

wherein each above-mentioned C₁-C₄ alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

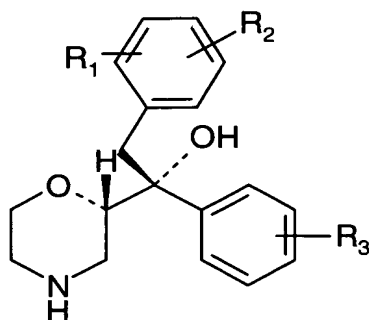
3. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~or claim 2~~ wherein:

Ar₁ is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl, O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), S(C₁-C₄ alkyl), halo, and phenyl optionally substituted with halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, or O(C₁-C₄ alkyl); and

Ar₂ is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl, O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), and halo;

wherein each above-mentioned C₁-C₄ alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

4. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1, represented by the formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, $O(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), $S(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), halo, and phenyl; and

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and halo;

wherein each above-mentioned C_1 - C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_4 alkyl, $O(C_1$ - C_4 alkyl), F, and Ph,

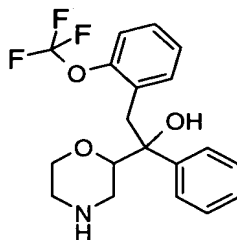
wherein each above-mentioned C_1 - C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

6. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~, wherein R_2 is H or F.

7. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 6~~ of claim 4, wherein R_3 is H.

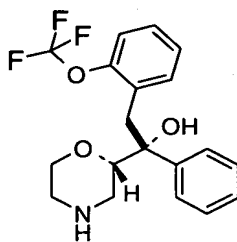
8. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~Ar~~ Ar₁ includes a substituent attached at the 2-position.

9. (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



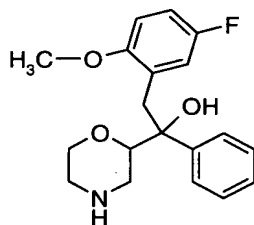
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



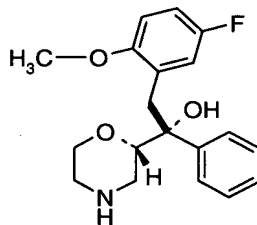
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (currently amended): A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended): A method for selectively inhibiting the reuptake of norepinephrine in mammals, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1-12~~ of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (currently amended): A method for treating disorders associated with norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1-12~~ of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

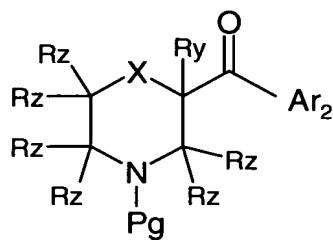
Claim 19 (canceled)

20. (currently amended): A method ~~or use as claimed in any one of claims 15, 16 and of claim~~ 18, wherein the disorder is attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, ~~ADHD~~.

21. (currently amended): A method ~~or use as claimed in any one of claims 15, 16 and of claim~~ 18, wherein the disorder is schizophrenia.

22. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1-12~~ of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient, or carrier.

23. (currently amended): A compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein Pg represents an N-protecting group and all other variables are as defined for formula (I) in claim 1.